

NOW

twisted out of
you while you slept
green as the leaves' shadow

did you feel your
flesh give way
for me

you touch your
cock as if you knew

life will be different now adam

-- Lyn Lifshin

Albany, NY

SONG

Of course I remember
Sweet Betsy From Pike
& Ike & his Pike County Pants
but most men outlived 3 wives then
when corn dodgers & sod
built a country but
Betsy lived through
like the whores lived through

Honest women died
under honest men.

PRETTY BOY FLOYD

With a bang
broke the laws & the banks
they called him Chock
because he was part Chocktaw
& when he drove into town
the people cheered
they knew he was going to burn a mortgage
& take some money away from
them that's got it

they wouldn't turn him in
for the reward
even when they were starving

Old Chock was alright
they'd say
Ain't seen him
they'd mutter

But the law got him
shot him down in a cornfield
not because he was a criminal
but because he
wasn't organized

He was layin there
full of bullets
& the cops asked him
are you
Pretty Boy Floyd?
& he said
"My name is
Charles Arthur Floyd"
& died
like it was important to him.

MOUNTAIN MAN

Half man, half grizzly bear
married a squaw
took himself several
in various parts of the country
"a big fat warm one for winter"
"a thin quick one for summer."
spitting sloppily on a passing beetle
unfit for
civilized society
too big for towns
cities too big for him
& no room at all now
as he slumps to sleep
on the sidewalk
in front of the Greyhound station
too old to crawl
back to his mountains.